KIRKBY LONSDALE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

KIRKBY LONSDALE:
H. MORPHET, PRINTER AND STATIONER, MAIN STREET.
1914.

REPORT.

TO THE KIRKBY LONSDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1914, together with the usual tables containing the birth and death rates for the year.

Although I have only been responsible as Medical Officer of Health for the first three quarters of the year, I have through the courtesy of Col. Cockill,—who is now Medical Officer of Health for the whole of Westmorland, but who has since the commencement of the war been engaged in military duties—been acting for him during the terminal quarter and am therefore presenting to you the Report for the whole year.

The employment of a whole time Medical Officer is undoubtedly a movement in the right direction and will, I hope, make for the better sanitary administration of the district.

From the appended tables it will be seen that the number of births is the same as that of last year.

The number of deaths is unusually high. There does not seem to be any special reason for this, but it is probably part of the inevitable fluctuations in a small population.

Three of the births registered are those of illegitimate children. The infant mortality was not high.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—There is nothing new to report about this; it is abundant in quantity and of excellent quality.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There have been no new public drains laid down during the year and the drainage system is working satisfactorily—the clear effluent from the bacteria beds is discharged into the river.

Closet Accommodation.—The tendency has been to replace the old-fashioned and in many cases objectionable privies by water closets. The following table gives at a glance the relative number of each:

1. Number of old-fashioned privies remaining ... ... 92.
2. Number of old-fashioned privies replaced by W.C's during the year ... ... 6.
3. Number of Water Closets ... ... 337.

It will make for the health and comfort of the town if all the privies are ultimately replaced by water closets.

The retention of privies in the outlying districts is not open to the same objection.

Scavenging.—Of late years an endeavour has been made to substitute ashbins, which are emptied frequently, for the old-fashioned and less frequently cleared ashpits. The following table shows the work done in this direction during the year:

1. Number of ashpits in the whole district... ... ... 69.
2. Number of ashbins replacing ashpits during the year ... 6.
3. Number of ashbins in use in the district ... ...156.

It would be a great improvement if all ashpits were abandoned and were replaced by the bins.

The storage of refuse in large ashpits near dwelling-houses from which it is periodically removed in all weathers by means of uncovered carts is open to serious objections from a public health point of view.

Sanitary Inspection of District.—During the year the whole town was inspected by the Sanitary Inspector three times. As a result of these inspections four notices were served and in each case the nuisance or defect complained of was remedied.

FOOD.

The Milk Supply of the district is brought in from neighbouring farms. During the year samples of all the milk were analysed by Dr. Hellon, the County Analyst, who reported that in each case it was satisfactory.

Meat.—The slaughter houses are occasionally inspected. The meat sold in the district is exceptionally good.

HOUSING.

During the year eight new cottages were completed. These houses, in blocks of four each and standing in their own gardens, are a useful addition to the workmen's dwelling in the district.

In the plans of all new cottage property it would be well if the provision of a suitable food store could be insisted on, the poor are very much handicapped by having no accommodation for storage.

A good deal of the cottage property in the district has been improved in many ways as a result of the recent inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act. At the same time there remains in Kirkby Lonsdale a large number of small cottages which are ill adapted for being the houses of growing families. It seems a pity that the better houses cannot be retained for workmen who have large families. Unfortunately, as has been pointed out in previous reports, it is often the working man with a large family who is least able to pay the rent of a more commodious house.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases in the district remains the same as before. Hop House is still retained as an isolation hospital in the event of sporadic cases, whilst under our agreement with the South Westmorland Rural District Council any epidemic can be dealt with by transferring the cases at a fixed charge to the Kendal Sanatorium. Fortunately the district has, with the exception of one case of erysipelas, remained singularly free from notifiable infectious diseases during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases of tuberculosis of the lung were notified during the year. Both of these cases died—one after removal to Meathop Sanatorium, the other at home.

During the past eight years a certain amount has been done to improve the sanitary condition of the town. A continuous effort has been made to improve the dwellings of the poor. Much still remains to be done in the direction of the abolition of privies and ashpits and in the more frequent removal of refuse in covered carts.

In taking leave of the work I should like to embrace the opportunity of thanking the Council for their invariable confidence and consideration, and also the officials for their valuable help which has always been most courteously given.

T. G. MATHEWS, M.D.,
(late) Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1914 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transperable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
									Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Uncorrected Number	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	of Non-residents regist'red in the District.	of Residents not regist'red in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	1650	31		18·78	16	9·69	0	1	3	96·7	16	9·69
1910	1650	25		15 15	13	7·8	1	1	2	80 0	13	7·8
1911	1524	26		17·06	18	11·8	2	2	3	115 3	16	10·4
1912	1500	23		15·3	7	4·6	0	1	2	86 9	8	5·3
1913	1500	23		15·3	11	7·14	0	4	0	0	15	1[illegible]·0
1914	1500	23		15·3	21	14	0	3	1	43·4	24	16

Notes.—This Table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district, and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. For years before 1911 some of the corrected rates probably will not be available. The rates should be calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population. In a district in which large Public Institutions for the sick or infirm seriously affect the statistics, the rates in Columns 5 and 13 may be calculated on a nett population, obtained by deducting from the estimated gross population the average number of inmates not belonging to the district in such institutions.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water.) } 3253 acres.

Total population at all ages, 1524 .. } At Census of 1911.
Total families or occupiers, 345 .... }

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseaes notified during the Year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox									
Cholera(c) Plague(P)									
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)									
Erysipelas	1							1	
Scarlet Fever.....									
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Relapsing Fever ..									
Continued Fever ..									
Puerperal Fever ..									
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis									
Poliomyelitis.....									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2					1	1		
Totals.....	3					1	1	1	

Isolation Hospital:—Hop House, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Sanatoria:—Meathop Sanatorium.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring within or without the District (a.)									Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non-Residents' in Institutions in the District.
	All ages	Under 1 year.	1 & under 2	2 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 45	45 & under 65	65 & upwards	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes { Certified (c)..										
All Causes { Uncertified ..										
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough ..										
Diphtheria and Croup..										
Influenza										
Erysipelas										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	2					1		1		2
Tuberculosis Meningitis										
Other Tuberculous Disease										
Cancer, malignant disease	2						1		1	2
Rheumatic Fever ..	1				1					1
Meningitis										
Organic Heart Disease	1							1		1
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	2								2	2
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..										
Diarrhœa and Enteritis										
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1						1			1
Cirrhosis of Liver ..										
Alcoholism ..										
Nephritis and Bright's disease	2						1	1		2
Puerperal Fever ..										
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition										
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth ..	1							1		1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide										
Suicide	1							1		1
Old Age										
Other Defined Diseases	11	1	1				1	2	6	11
Diseases ill-defined or unknown										
	24	1	1		1	1	4	7	9	24

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes { Certified										
All Causes { Uncertified										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles..										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping-cough										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..										
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*) ..										
Convulsions..										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms)										
Diarrhœa										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations ..										
Premature Birth..										
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus										
Other Causes						1				1
						1				1

Nett Births in the year { legitimate, 20. illegitimate, 3.

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants, 1. illegitimate infants, 0.

H. Morphet,
Printer & Stationer
KIRKBY LONSDALE